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Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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----------100251Z 112807 /70
R 091628Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO CINCPAC
COGARD
GOVGUAM
TREASURY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 9 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT'S NEWS CONFERENCE

NYT/WP/SUN CARRY TRANSCRIPT 2/8 CONF.PRES SAID HOPES LATER BRING OTHER NATIONS BESIDES USSR TO DISCUSS COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN/OTHER QUESTIONS, INCL NON-NUKE EUR COUNTRIES/ CHINESE. ALSO MENTIONED HAD MTG TUES MORNING W/HUANG CHEN WHO SAID GOAL CHINESE GOVT/PEOPLE WAS REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON NUKE WEAPONS TO ZERO. CARTER ADDED THAT IF US/USSR CAN DEMONSTRATE ABILITY STOP PRESENT GROWTH/HAVE REDUCTIONS, BELIEVES CAN GO TO FRENCH/BRITISH/CHINESE/OTHERS TO ASK JOIN US IN STOPPING TESTING/MOVING TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON ATOMIC WEAPONS.
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MARDER (WP) NOTES PRES EAGERLY REACHED FOR OPPORTUNITY EXPLAIN HIS THOUGHTS ON NUKE ISSUES; DISCUSSED MTG W/PRC'S HUANG CHEN. ADDS PRC'S KNOWN POSITION IS TO BAN NUKE WEAPONS IF EVERY OTHER NATION DOES SO.

2. CHINA

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GLOBE CARRIES UPI PHOTO OF HUANG CHEN RAISING ARM AS HE MET AT WH TUES WITH CARTER. VANCE, BRZEZINSKI, TSIEN TA-YUNG ALSO PRESENT. WP HAS SMALL PIC, WITH VANCE OMITTED.

ACCORDING OFFICIAL CHINESE SOURCES QUOTED BY KYODO, CHIANG CHING AND AIDES PLANNED UPRISINGS TO SEIZE POWER IN PEKING/ SHANGHAI ON CONSECUTIVE DAYS LAST OCT--BUT NEWS OF PLOT REACHED HUA FEW DAYS EARLIER AND "GANG OF FOUR" ARRESTED (REUTER TOKYO).

THREE MORE SENIOR OFFICIALS ASSIGNED TO SHANGHAI AS PART OF ADMINISTRATIVE SHAKE-UP AIMED AT ERADICATING RADICAL INFLUENCE FROM CITY (REUTER PEKING).

TENG APPEARED CLOSE TO REHABILITATION AND RETURNING TO POWER TUES FOLLOWING APPEARANCE BY HIS BROTHER AT MAJOR RALLY. NCNA AND RADIO PEKING CARRIED IDENTICAL REPORTS ON SPEECH BY YOUNGER TENG AND 3 LEADING NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED EDITS ENDORSING TENG'S PREVIOUS POLICIES (JOC).

RADIO PEKING REPORTS CHINESE ARMY UNITS HAVE DECIDED SEND SOME 7,000 HORSES TO EARTHQUAKE-DEVASTATED TANGSHAN/ FENGNAN AREAS QUICKLY TO RESTORE/DEVELOP PRODUCTION (REU-TER HK).

JOINT EDITS IN 3 LEADING CHINESE PUBLICATIONS ORDER CCP OFFICIALS/CHINESE PEOPLE OBSERVE STRICT DISCIPLINE, ESTABLISH "GREAT ORDER ACROSS THE LAND" WHILE CONTINUING UNCLASSIFIED

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CRITICIZE DEPOSED "GANG OF FOUR" (SUN'S ISAACS, HK).

OFFICIAL CHINESE SPOKESMAN DISCLOSED WEDNESDAY THAT SOVIET BORDER-TALKS CHIEF NEGOTIATOR IIYICHEV LAST MONTH PAID COURTESY CALL ON HUANG. OTHER SOURCES REPORTED MEETING LASTED ABOUT HOUR. SPOKESMAN STRESSED CALL AT IIYICHEV'S REQUEST, DIPLOMATS SAID CLEAR NO SUBSTANTIVE TALKS HELD (REUTER PEKING).

3. INDOCHINA

SEIDEN (SUN) SPEAKS W/JAPANESE OFFICIALS/POLITICIANS/ JOURNALISTS/BUSINESSMEN/TOURISTS WHO RETURN FROM "HO CHI MINH CITY." QUOTES THEM THAT IT "SWINGS" LESS, BUT THRIVES--YET W/SOCIALIST TRANSFORMATION SLOW/PAINFUL, IN SOME WAYS BARELY SKIN-DEEP. MENTIONS CAMERA CREW WAS ALLOWED STAY FOR YR, MADE PRO-COMMUNIST DOCUMENTARY TO BE SHOWN COMMERCIALLY IN TOKYO EARLY NEXT MO. SEIDEN RECOUNTS VIGNETTES LIFE IN HCM CITY/SVN.

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REUTER CARRIES 3RD OF 4 ARTICLES BY CORRESPONDENT WHO RECENTLY VISITED NVN W/PARTY FRENCH TOURISTS; DESCRIBES HAIPHONG AREA, FINDS USSR INFLUENCE PERVASIVE.

FORMER PRES LAOTIAN NATL ASSY CROSSES MEKONG INTO THAILAND AS REFUGEE. LAOTIAN MFA SOURCES DENY CURFEW IMPOSED IN VIENTAINE/BORDER CLOSED W/THAILAND (REUTER BANGKOK).

4. INDONESIA

GENEVA SHIPOWNER RAPPAPORT INTENSIFIES EFFORTS COLLECT BIG CLAIMS VS PERTAMINA; SUES SOME MAJOR US BANKS/OIL FIRMS TO PREVENT PERTAMINA ASSETS DIVERSION; GETS INJUNCTION IN UK RESTRAINING PERTAMINA FROM DISPOSING OF/REMOVING ASSETS THERE.

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5. JAPAN

BRITISH EMB ANNOUCES OFFICIAL CANCELLATION TOKYO VISIT BY ROYAL NAVY VESSEL BEARING WEAPONS EXHIBITION (NYT).

EC'S 20 PCT ANTIDUMPING DUTY IMPOSED ON IMPORTS JAPANESE BALL BEARINGS GETS ANGRY REACTION IN TOKYO. MITI CHIEF SAYS JAPAN WILL APPEAL PENALTIES BEFORE GATT LATER THIS MONTH UNLESS EC RETRACTS DECISION BEFOREHAND (JOC).

AT PARIS OECD MTG 2/8, GOJ OFFERED CONCESSIONS TO EC SHIP-BUILDERS, INCL TEMPORARY PRICE HIKE JAPANESE VESSELS/GOVT ATTEMPTS CONVINCE JAPANESE YARDS CURTAIL EXPORTS/REDUC-TION IN SHIPYARDS' ACTIVITIES IF JAPAN'S SHARE WORLD MAR-KET EXCEEDS AVG LEVEL IN RECENT YRS (RYAN, JOC; UPI, NYT).

YEN REACHES HIGHEST VALUE AGAINST DOLLAR SINCE 7/75, CLOSING ON TOKYO FOREX 2/9 AT 285.8 (REUTER TOKYO).

ACCORDING JAPAN ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES ASSN, '76 PRODUC-TION COLOR TVS UP 90 PCT OVER '75, ACCOUNTED FOR OVER HALF ALL SETS BOUGHT ON WORLD MARKET LAST YEAR. EXPORTS TO US ROSE 143.5 PCT, ACCOUNTED FOR OVER HALF COUNTRY'S TOTAL TV EXPORTS (UPI, JOC; WP).

JAPANESE FIRMS SUSPENDED FROM TRANSACTIONS BY THEIR BANKS AS POOR RISKS HIT RECORD MONTHLY HIGH OF 1860 IN 12/76 (UPI, JOC).

FINANCE MINISTRY LIFTS RESTRICTIONS ON BUSINESS EXPAN-SION IMPOSED ON JAPAN'S SECURITIES COS IN '68 TO PRE-

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VENT EXCESSIVE COMPETITION AMONG THEM (UPI, JOC).

JAPANESE CHEMICAL FERTILIZER MFRS HOPE FOR EXPORT TRADE REVIVAL/HIGHER PRICES DUE US COLD WAVE/INABILITY USSR, E EUR COUNTRIES MEET DOMESTIC DEMAND (JOC).
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6. KOREA

HOUSE RULES CMTE, W/O AUDIBLE DISSENT, GAVE APPROVAL 2/8 FOR FULL HOUSE VOTE RESOLUTION DIRECTING ETHICS CMTE MAKE "FULL AND COMPLETE" INQUIRY TO DETERMINE IF SKOREAN AGENTS GAVE CONGRESSMEN BRIBES/GIFTS/KICKBACKS TO SHORE UP SEOUL GOVT. FULL VOTE SCHEDULED FOR 2/9 (LEBRETON, AP; UPI, NYT).

ETHICS CMTE CHRMN FLYNT 2/8 ASKED AUTHORITY TO CARRY IN-VESTIGATION BEYOND US BORDERS IF NECESSARY. CMTE DESIRES PERMISSION GET EVIDENCE BY DEPOSITION FROM WITNESSES, INCL TONGSUN PARK, OUTSIDE REACH US SUBPEONAS. CMTE MAY ALSO ASK VANCE SEND LETTER TO FON "TRIBUNAL, OFFICER, OR AGENCY" (REUTER 2/8).

BABCOCK (WP) REPORTS ROKG HAS APPARENTLY AGREED COOPERATE W/ETHICS CMTE INVESTIGATION. FLYNT TOLD OTHER CMTE MEMBERS 2/8 THAT HE HAD RECEIVED "ASSURANCES OF COOPERATION" FROM FON EMB, BUT DECLINED ELABORATE AFTER MTG. KOREAN EMB SPOKESMAN ALSO REFUSED ELABORATION, BUT SAID ROKG WOULD COOPERATE "WITHIN THE PROTOCOLS OF THESE TWO FRIENDLY NATIONS."

NY-BASED PUBLICATION, CHALSE WORLD INFORMATION, REPORTS W EUR BANK SYNDICATE HAS NEGOTIATED NEW AGREEMENT W/NK ON REPAYMENT 258.3 MIL DOLS OF NEARLY 400 MIL DOLS IN FON DEBTS ON WHICH NK DEFAULTED IN '75 (REUTER 2/8).

7. PHILIPPINES

KAMM (NYT) REPORTS PASTORAL LETTER CRITICIZING GOP, SIGNED BY 66 CATHOLIC BISHOPS, FURTHER STRAINING RELS BETW CHURCH/GOVT. DOCUMENT REPORTEDLY BEING CIRCULATED FROM PHIL NATL POLICE FORCE, ALLEGEDLY SEEKING ARREST 155
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CHURCHMEN/LAYMEN, INCL 4 BISHOPS. DOCUMENT CHARGES

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155 W/"REBELLION AND INCITING TO SEDITION." CHURCH CIRCLES BELIEVE WARRANT "LEAKED" BY GOP AS WARNING TO CHURCH AUTHORITIES TO RESTRAIN THOSE UNDER THEM FROM FOMENTING OPPOSITION.

8. SINGPORE

SWISS BANK CONSORTIUM COMPLETING PREPARATIONS TO FLOAT 16-MIL-DOL BOND ISSUE FOR SINGAPORE (UPI, JOC).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

9. CHINA

LAT'S LESLIE (HK 2/8) CITES SPECULATION THAT MONDAY SPEECH BY TENG'S BROTHER INDICATES TENG'S RETURN TO POWER IMMINENT. SUGGESTS FACT "THIS APPARENT HINT" CAME MONDAY "IS PROBABLY SIGNIFICANT," SINCE DAY MARKED FIRST ANNIVERSARY HUA'S ELEVATION OVER TENG TO ACTING PREMIER POST.

BUT APPEARANCE OF TENG'S BROTHER STILL DOES NOT PROVIDE ANY SOLID CLUES TO "MORE PRESSING QUESTION" OF WHAT OFFICIAL POSTS ELDER TENG WILL BE GIVEN AND WHEN, OBSERVES TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL'S MUNRO (CSM, PEKING).

IN 2/2 SAN FRAN CHRON COLUMN, MUNRO NOTES REPORT THAT FOREIGNER'S CHINESE MAID DECLARED OR PREDICTED TENG WILL BE NAMED CCP FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN--AND MAID WAS SOON BEING QUOTED AROUND WORLD IN NEWS STORY AS "NON-OFFICIAL CHINESE SOURCE." FEELS THIS EPISODE MAY WELL REVEAL SOMETHING ABOUT CHINA-WATCHING JOURNALISM--BUT ALSO REFLECTS HOW TENG'S FUTURE "HAS BECOME AN ALMOST OBSESSIVE TOPIC" OF DISCUSSION/SPECULATION AMONG JOURNALISTS/DIPLOMATS. CONCLUDES WHILE ODDS FAVOR TENG'S RETURN IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE TO PUBLIC POST OF CONSIDERABLE POWER, THERE IS ALSO
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EVIDENCE POINTING IN OTHER DIRECTION.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Comment:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3362702
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEBRUARY 9 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
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